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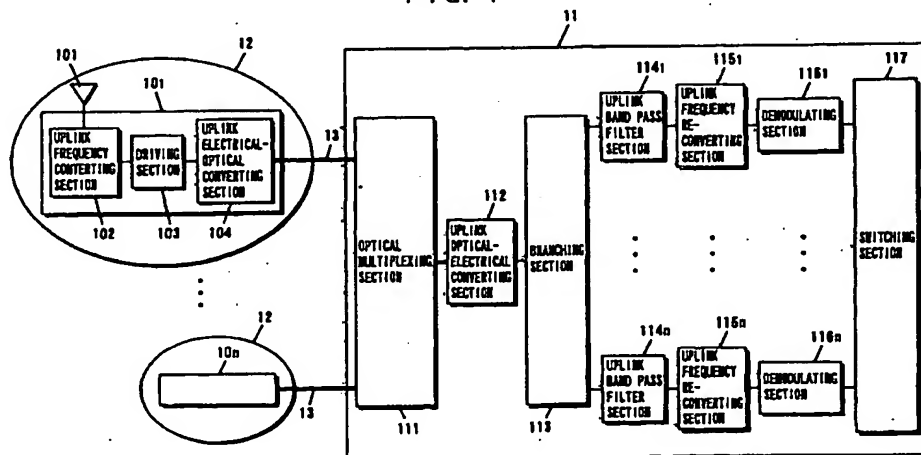
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(54) Multi-point optical link in a cellular radio system for CDMA signals

(57) Radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n subject each code-division multiplex signal to frequency conversion so as to vary each frequency thereof according to the radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n and then converts the signal to an optical signal before transmitting the same to a switching station 11. The switching station 11 multiplexes the optical signals, subjects a signal obtained after multiplexing to optical-electrical conversion, and extracts the code-division multiplex signal from the respective electrical signal obtained after the conver-

sion. Consequently, each signal to be demodulated by demodulating sections 116_1 to 116_n includes nothing but the code-division multiplex signal outputted from the radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n . Therefore, a code-division multiplex signal outputted from a desired base station is not disturbed by code-division multiplex signals outputted from the other stations as a noise as will be in a conventional system.

FIG. 1



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Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to optical transmission systems, more particularly to a multi-point optical transmission system for optically transmitting code-division multiplex signals in an analog fashion from a plurality of slave stations to a master station through an optical fiber.

Description of the Background Art

[0002] Fig. 4 is a block diagram showing an exemplary functional configuration of a conventional multi-point optical transmission system.

[0003] The system in Fig. 4 includes radio base stations 40_1 to 40_n (where n is an arbitrary integer of 2 or more) and a switching station 41, and each of the radio base stations 40_1 to 40_n is connected to the switching station 41 via an optical fiber 43. Each radio base station 40_1 to 40_n includes an antenna 401, a driving section 402, and an uplink electrical-optical converting section 403. The switching station 41 includes uplink optical-electrical converting sections 411_1 to 411_n , demodulating sections 412_1 to 412_n , and a switching section 413.

[0004] The antenna 401 receives an uplink radio signal. The uplink radio signal herein is a code-division multiplex signal into which radio signals outputted from a plurality of terminals (not shown) in each cell 42 are multiplexed in a code-division system. Each uplink radio signal is equal in frequency as predetermined. The driving section 402 applies a bias to the uplink radio signal. The uplink electrical-optical converting section 403 converts the uplink radio signal into an optical signal whose intensity is modulated by the uplink radio signal. The uplink optical-electrical converting sections 411_1 to 411_n convert the optical signal into an electrical signal (an uplink radio signal). The demodulating sections 412_1 to 412_n demodulate the uplink radio signal outputted from the radio base stations 40_1 to 40_n to base band digital data (Note that a process of demodulation herein includes "reverse diffusion". Specifically, a radio signal is subjected to reverse diffusion before demodulation so as to obtain base band digital data; the same is applicable to the description below). The switching section 413 goes through a switching process in accordance with the base band digital data.

[0005] The operation whereby the system in Fig. 4 optically transmits a plurality of uplink radio signals outputted from the radio base stations 40_1 to 40_n to the switching station 41 in a multi-point fashion is described next below. Each cell 42 in the system in Fig. 4 includes a plurality of terminals (not shown), and each of the terminals transmits a radio signal in a code-division multi-

plex system to one of the radio base stations 40_1 to 40_n located in the same cell 42. Thereafter, each of the uplink radio signals obtained after the code-division multiplexing of radio signals from the terminals is then received by the antenna 401 of the respective radio base stations 40_1 to 40_n .

[0006] The received uplink radio signals are respectively biased in the driving section 402, and sent to the uplink electrical-optical converting section 403. In response thereto, the uplink electrical-optical converting section 403 outputs an optical signal whose intensity is modulated by the uplink radio signal. In this manner, each optical signal outputted from the radio base stations 40_1 to 40_n is transmitted to the switching station 41 through the optical fiber 43. Each of the transmitted optical signals is subjected to optical-electrical conversion in the uplink optical-electrical converting sections 411_1 to 411_n . Each electrical signal obtained after the conversion (uplink electrical signals outputted from the radio base stations 40_1 to 40_n) is demodulated to base band digital data in the demodulating sections 412_1 to 412_n , and then sent to the switching section 413. The switching section 413 goes through a switching process in accordance with the respective base band digital data.

[0007] As will be known from the above, a plurality of uplink radio signals outputted from the radio base stations 40_1 to 40_n can be optically transmitted in a multi-point fashion to the switching station 41 in the system in Fig. 4.

[0008] The system, however, necessitates the uplink optical-electrical converting sections 411_1 to 411_n as many as the radio base stations 40_1 to 40_n in the switching station 41. Consequently, if the system has a large number of cells 42, the switching station 41 accordingly becomes larger and costs more.

[0009] Thus, another type of multi-point optical transmission system was proposed, in which, with only a single optical-electrical converting section provided in a switching station, uplink radio signals outputted from a plurality of radio base stations are optically transmitted to the switching station in a multi-point fashion.

[0010] Fig. 5 is a block diagram showing an exemplary configuration of another conventional multi-point optical transmission system.

[0011] The system in Fig. 5 includes radio base stations 50_1 to 50_n (where n is an arbitrary integer of 2 or more) and a switching station 51, and each of the radio base stations 50_1 to 50_n is connected to the switching station 51 via an optical fiber 53. Each of the radio base stations 50_1 to 50_n includes an antenna 501, a driving section 502, and an uplink electrical-optical converting section 503. The switching station 51 includes an optical multiplexing section 511, uplink optical-electrical converting section 512, a branching section 513, demodulating sections 514_1 to 514_n , and a switching section 515.

[0012] The optical multiplexing section 511 multiplexes optical signals outputted from the radio base sta-

tions 50₁ to 50_n. The uplink optical-electrical converting section 512 converts an optical signal obtained by multiplexing into an electrical signal. The branching section 513 branches the electrical signal into n signals. Other components in this system perform each task in a similar manner to those in the system in Fig. 4.

[0013] The operation whereby the system in Fig. 5 optically transmits a plurality of uplink radio signals outputted from the radio base stations 50₁ to 50_n in a multi-point fashion to the switching station 51 is described next below.

[0014] Referring to Fig. 5, each cell 52 in the system includes a plurality of terminals (not shown), and each of the terminals transmits a radio signal in a code-division multiplex system to one of the radio base stations 50₁ to 50_n located in the same cell 52. Each of the radio signals obtained after the code-division multiplexing is then received by the antenna 501 of the respective radio base stations 50₁ to 50_n. The received uplink radio signals are respectively biased in the driving section 502, and then sent to the uplink electrical-optical converting section 503. In response thereto, the uplink electrical-optical converting section 503 outputs an optical signal whose intensity is modulated by the uplink radio signal.

[0015] In this manner, each of the optical signals outputted from the base radio stations 50₁ to 50_n is transmitted to the switching station 51 through the optical fiber 53. The transmitted optical signals are multiplexed in the optical multiplexing section 511, and a signal obtained by multiplexing is then subjected to optical-electrical conversion in the uplink optical-electrical converting section 512. An electrical signal obtained by the conversion is branched into n signals in the branching section 513. The respective electrical signals obtained by n-branching are inputted to the demodulating sections 514₁ to 514_n, and the uplink radio signals outputted from the radio base stations 50₁ to 50_n are selectively demodulated to base band digital data therein. The base band digital data is then respectively sent to the switching section 515, and a switching process is performed therein in accordance with the respective base digital data.

[0016] As will be known from the above, unlike the system in Fig 4, the system in Fig. 5 having only a single uplink optical-electrical converting section 512 in the switching station 51 can optically transmit a plurality of uplink radio signals outputted from the radio base stations 50₁ to 50_n in a multi-point fashion to the switching station 51.

[0017] The system, however, causes a problem when demodulating the respective electrical signals obtained by n-branching to base band digital data in the demodulating sections 514₁ to 514_n. That is, as the electrical signals obtained by n-branching each include a plurality of uplink radio signals outputted from the radio base stations 50₁ to 50_n, the uplink radio signals disturb, for example, a signal obtained after reverse dif-

fusion (corresponds to an uplink radio signal outputted from the radio base station 50₁) as a noise when demodulation is taken place in the demodulating section 514₁, thereby causing a drop in a C/N ratio.

[0018] For reference purposes, Figs. 6a and 6b show two spectrums of a signal before and after the reverse diffusion taken place in the demodulating section 514₁. Fig. 6a shows a spectrum before reverse diffusion, and Fig. 6b shows a spectrum after reverse diffusion. As shown in Fig. 6, an uplink radio signal 61 is subjected to reverse diffusion in the demodulating section 514₁ but not the other two uplink radio signals 62 and 63. In this case, non-reverse-diffused uplink radio signals 62 and 63 disturb a signal 61A obtained by the reverse diffusion as a noise.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0019] Therefore, an objective of the present invention is to provide a multi-point optical transmission system, in which, with only a single uplink optical-electrical converting section provided in a master station, code-division multiplex signals outputted from a plurality of slave stations are optically transmitted to the master station in a multi-point manner without a drop in each C/N ratio thereof.

[0020] The present invention has the following features to attain the objective above.

[0021] A first aspect of the present invention is directed to a multi-point optical transmission system for optically transmitting code-division multiplex signals from a plurality of slave stations (10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n) to a master station (11, 21, 31),

the slave stations (10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n) having each varied carrier frequency assigned, each of the slave stations (10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n) comprising:

frequency conversion means (102) for subjecting each code-division multiplex signal to be transmitted to the master station (11, 21, 31) to frequency conversion to equalize the predetermined frequency thereof with the carrier frequency assigned to one own station;

drive means (103) for applying a bias to a signal obtained after the conversion by the frequency conversion means (102); and

electrical-optical conversion means (104) for converting an electrical signal obtained through the bias applied by the drive means (103) into an optical signal whose intensity is modulated by the electrical signal, and

the master station (11, 21, 31) comprising:

optical multiplex means (111) for multiplexing optical signals obtained after conversion by the electrical-optical conversion means (104);

optical-electrical conversion means (112) for converting an optical signal obtained after multiplexing

by the optical multiplex means(111) into an electrical signal;

band pass filter means (114₁ to 114_n) for extracting a signal equal in frequency to the carrier frequency assigned to each of the slave stations (10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n) from the electrical signal obtained after conversion by the optical-electrical conversion means; and

frequency re-conversion means (115₁ to 115_n) for subjecting each signal extracted by the band pass filter means (114₁ to 114_n) to frequency re-conversion to equalize each frequency thereof with a predetermined frequency.

[0022] As described above, in the first aspect of the present invention, each signal to be demodulated by the demodulation means(116₁ to 116_n) includes only a code-division multiplex signal outputted from a single slave station(10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n). Accordingly, a code-division multiplex signal outputted from a desired base station will not be disturbed by code-division multiplex signals outputted from the other stations as a noise any more. Therefore, with only a single optical-electrical conversion means(112) provided in the master station(11, 21, 31), the multi-point optical transmission system of the present invention can successfully optically transmit code-division multiplex signals outputted from a plurality of slave stations (10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n) to a master station(11, 21, 31) in a multi-point fashion without causing a drop in each C/N ratio thereof.

[0023] A second aspect of the present invention is directed to the multi-point optical transmission system as set forth in the first aspect of the invention, wherein each of the slave stations (10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n) has varied downlink carrier frequency further assigned,

the master station(11, 21, 31) further comprises:
downlink frequency conversion means(212₁ to 212_n) for subjecting each downlink signal to be transmitted to the slave stations (10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n) to frequency conversion to equalize the other predetermined frequency thereof with the downlink carrier frequency assigned to each of the slave station(10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n);
multiplex means(213) for multiplexing downlink signals obtained after the conversion by the downlink frequency conversion means(212₁ to 212_n);
downlink drive means(214) for applying a bias to a signal obtained after multiplexing by the multiplex means(213);
downlink electrical-optical conversion means(215) for converting an electrical signal obtained through the bias applied
by the downlink drive means(214) into an optical signal whose intensity is modulated by the signal; and

optical branch means(216) for branching the optical signal obtained after conversion by the downlink electrical-optical conversion means(215), and each of the slave stations (10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n) further comprises:

downlink optical-electrical conversion means(201) for converting one of a plurality of optical signals obtained after branching by the optical branch means(216) into an electrical signal;

downlink band pass filter means(202) for extracting a signal equal in frequency to a downlink carrier frequency assigned to the own station from the electrical signal obtained after conversion by the downlink optical-electrical conversion means(201); and

downlink frequency re-conversion means(203) for subjecting the downlink signal extracted by the downlink band pass filter means(202) to frequency re-conversion to equalize a frequency thereof with a frequency before the frequency conversion.

[0024] As described above, in the second aspect of the present invention, each downlink signal outputted from the master station(11, 21, 31) can further be optically transmitted to the slave stations (10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n) in a multi-point fashion without a drop in each C/N ratio thereof.

[0025] A third aspect of the present invention is directed to the multi-point optical transmission system as set forth in the second aspect of the invention, wherein each of the slave stations (10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n) has varied pilot signal frequency further assigned, and

further comprises pilot signal multiplex means(311) for multiplexing a pilot signal having a pilot signal frequency assigned to the own station on a code-division multiplex signal to be transmitted to the master station(11, 21, 31),

the master station(11, 21, 31) further comprises downlink pilot signal multiplex means(311) for multiplexing a downlink pilot signal on each downlink signal to be transmitted to the slave stations(10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n),

the downlink pilot signal multiplex means(311) examines the electrical signal obtained after conversion by the optical-electrical conversion means to measure power of the pilot signal, and then generates control information indicating a difference between a measured value and a predetermined threshold to apply the same as a modulation component to the downlink pilot signal to be multiplexed,

the downlink band pass filter means(202) further extracts the downlink pilot signal from the electrical signal obtained after the conversion by the downlink optical-electrical conversion means(201), and in accordance with the control information supplied to the downlink pilot signal extracted by the down-

link band pass filter means(202), the drive means(103) adjusts power of a bias to be applied so that power of the code-division multiplex signal at time of reaching the master station(11, 21, 31) are equalized.

[0026] As described above, in the third aspect of the present invention, an amount of noise and distortion occurs in an optical transmission system is reduced by multiplexing a pilot signal into each code-division multiplex signal and a downlink pilot signal into each downlink signal. Moreover, the system of the present invention suppresses noise-to-noise (power thereof) variation occurred in each code-division multiplex signal by equalizing each power thereof at the time of reaching the master station(11, 21, 31). As a result, the transmission characteristic of the system is improved.

[0027] A fourth aspect of the present invention is directed to the multi-point optical transmission system as set forth in the third aspect of the invention, wherein when converting the electrical signal into the optical signal, the electrical-optical conversion means(104) adjusts each optical modulation level of the optical signal to equalize the same.

[0028] As described above, in the fourth aspect of the present invention, the equalized power of the optical signals to be transmitted to the optical-electrical conversion means (112) prevents a noise having a relative intensity from occurring only to a particular code-division multiplex signal. As a result, the transmission characteristic of the system is improved.

[0029] A fifth aspect of the present invention is directed to the multi-point optical transmission system as set forth in the third aspect of the invention, wherein each of the code-division multiplex signals is a signal into which a plurality of radio signals transmitted from a mobile station in each cell(12) of the slave stations(10_1 to 10_n , 20_1 to 20_n , 30_1 to 30_n) are code-division-multiplexed,

each downlink signal is a signal into which a plurality of radio signals to be transmitted to the mobile station in the cell (12) are multiplexed, and each of the slave stations (10_1 to 10_n , 20_1 to 20_n , 30_1 to 30_n) further comprises:

an antenna(101) for transmitting and receiving the radio signals to and from the mobile station located in one own cell(12); and

a circulator(204) for supplying an output from the antenna(101) to the frequency conversion means(102) and an output from the downlink frequency re-conversion means(203) to the antenna(101).

[0030] As described above, in the fifth aspect of the present invention, the slave stations (10_1 to 10_n , 20_1 to 20_n , 30_1 to 30_n) can respectively be downsized as the system does not require thereto to have two antennas

for transmitting and receiving signals, respectively.

[0031] These and other objects, features, aspects and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description of the present invention when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0032]

FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a multi-point optical transmission system according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing a multi-point optical transmission system according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 3 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a multi-point optical transmission system according to a third embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 4 is a block diagram showing an exemplary configuration of a conventional multi-point optical transmission system.

Fig. 5 is a block diagram showing an exemplary configuration of another conventional multi-point optical transmission system.

Figs. 6a and 6b are diagrams showing exemplary spectrums of signals before and after reverse diffusion taken place in the demodulating sections 514_n in Fig. 5.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0033] The preferred embodiments of the present invention are described next below with reference to the accompanying drawings.

(First Embodiment)

[0034] Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing the structure of a multi-point optical transmission system according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

[0035] The system in Fig. 1 comprises radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n (where n is an arbitrary integer of 2 or more) and a switching station 11, and each of the radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n is connected to the switching station 11 via an optical fiber 13.

[0036] Each of the radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n comprises an antenna 101, an uplink frequency converting section 102, a driving section 103, and an uplink electrical-optical converting section 104. The switching station 11 comprises an optical multiplexing section 111, an uplink optical-electrical converting section 112, a branching section 113, uplink band pass filter sections 114_1 to 114_n , uplink frequency re-converting sections 115_1 to 115_n , demodulating sections 116_1 to 116_n , and a switching section 117.

[0037] The antenna 101 receives an uplink radio signal. The uplink radio signal herein is a code-division multiplex signal into which radio signals outputted from a plurality of terminals not shown in each cell 12 are multiplexed in a code-division multiplex system. Each of the uplink radio signals is equal in frequency (f_0) as predetermined.

[0038] It should be noted that the uplink radio signals are not necessarily equal in frequency. Herein, however, a description is made of a case where uplink radio signals are equal in frequency (f_0) as is common for communication in a code-division multiplex system.

[0039] The radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n are assigned with each varied frequency (f_1 to f_n), and each uplink frequency converting section 102 in the radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n subjects the uplink radio signal to frequency conversion so as to equalize the frequency thereof with a frequency assigned to the own station. The driving section 103 applies a bias to the uplink radio signal. The uplink electrical-optical converting section 104 converts the uplink radio signal into an optical signal whose intensity is modulated by the uplink radio signal.

[0040] The optical multiplexing section 111 multiplexes the optical signals outputted respectively from the radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n . The uplink optical-electrical converting section 112 converts an optical signal obtained after multiplexing into an electrical signal. The branching section 113 branches the electrical signal into n signals. The uplink band pass filter sections 114_1 to 114_n extract any uplink radio signal having frequency of f_1 to f_n from the electrical signal. The uplink frequency re-converting sections 115_1 to 115_n subject the uplink radio signals having frequency of f_1 to f_n to frequency re-conversion so as to convert each frequency thereof back to the original value of f_0 . The demodulating sections 116_1 to 116_n demodulate the uplink radio signals obtained after the re-conversion taken place in the uplink frequency re-converting sections 115_1 to 115_n to base band digital data. The switching section 117 goes through a switching process in accordance with the respective base band digital data.

[0041] The operation whereby the system in Fig. 1 optically transmits a plurality of uplink radio signals outputted from the radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n to the switching station 11 in a multi-point fashion is described next below.

[0042] Each cell 12 in the system in Fig. 1 includes a plurality of terminals (not shown), and each of the terminals transmits a radio signal in a code-division multiplex system to one of the radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n located in the same cell 12. The radio signals outputted from the plurality of terminals are subjected to code-division multiplexing so as to obtain uplink radio signals. Each of the uplink radio signals is then received by the antenna 101 of each radio base station 10_1 to 10_n .

[0043] The received uplink radio signals each having a frequency of f_0 are subjected to frequency conver-

sion in each uplink frequency converting section 102 so that each frequency thereof is converted into a predetermined value (f_1 to f_n) according to the respective radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n .

[0044] The uplink radio signal obtained after the frequency conversion is biased in the driving section 103, and then sent to the uplink electrical-optical converting section 104. In response thereto, the uplink electrical-optical converting section 104 outputs an optical signal whose intensity is modulated by the uplink radio signal. In this manner, the respective optical signals outputted from the radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n are transmitted to the switching station 11 via the optical fiber 13.

[0045] The transmitted optical signals are multiplexed in the optical multiplexing section 111, and then a resultant signal is subjected to optical-electrical conversion in the uplink optical-electrical converting section 112. The electrical signal obtained by conversion is branched into n signals in the branching section 113, and then sent to the band pass filters 114_1 to 114_n . The band pass filters 114_1 to 114_n have a characteristic of selectively passing signals having frequency of f_1 to f_n . Therefore, uplink radio signals having frequency of f_1 to f_n are extracted from each electrical signal obtained after n -branching by each filter.

[0046] The extracted uplink radio signals are respectively subjected to frequency re-conversion in the uplink frequency re-converting sections 115_1 to 115_n so that each frequency thereof is converted back to the original value of f_0 . Each uplink radio signal obtained after the re-conversion is demodulated to base band digital data in the demodulating sections 116_1 to 116_n , and sent to the switching section 117. Thereafter, the switching section 117 performs a switching process in accordance with the respective base band digital data.

[0047] As will be known from the above, in the system in Fig. 1, the radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n subject each uplink radio signal having the predetermined frequency of f_0 to frequency conversion so as to vary each frequency thereof according to the radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n (f_1 to f_n), and then convert the uplink radio signals into optical signals before transmitting the same to the switching station 11. The switching station 11, on the other hand, multiplexes the optical signals outputted from the radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n , subjects a resultant optical signal to optical-electrical conversion, and extracts uplink radio signals respectively from the electrical signals obtained after the conversion. The switching station 11 then subjects the extracted uplink radio signals each having frequency of f_1 to f_n to frequency re-conversion so as to convert each frequency thereof back to the original value of f_0 , and then demodulates the same to base band digital data.

[0048] Specifically, the system in Fig. 1 allows each signal to be demodulated in the demodulating sections 116_1 to 116_n to include nothing but an uplink radio signal outputted from the radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n . Accordingly, a code-division multiplex signal outputted

from a desired base station will not be bothered by uplink radio signals outputted from the other stations as a noise as will be in the system in Fig. 5.

[0049] Thus, with only a single uplink optical-electrical converting section 112 provided in the switching station 11, a plurality of uplink radio signals outputted from the radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n can be successfully optically transmitted to the switching station 11 in a multi-point manner without causing a drop in a C/N ratio thereof in the system in Fig. 1.

(Second Embodiment)

[0050] Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing the structure of a multi-point optical transmission system according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

[0051] The system in Fig. 2 includes radio base stations 20_1 to 20_n (where n is an arbitrary integer of 2 or more) and a switching station 21, and each of the radio base stations 20_1 to 20_n is connected to the switching station 21 via an optical fiber 13.

[0052] The respective radio base stations 20_1 to 20_n further includes a downlink optical-electrical converting section 201, a downlink band pass filter section 202, a downlink frequency re-converting section 203, and a circulator 204 in addition to the components included in the radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n in Fig. 1 (Note that the components identical to those of the radio base stations 10_1 to 10_n are not shown in this drawing).

[0053] The switching station 21 further includes modulating sections 211_1 to 211_n , downlink frequency converting sections 212_1 to 212_n , a multiplexing section 213, a driving section 214, a downlink electrical-optical converting section 215, and an optical branching section 216 in addition to the components included in the switching station 11 in Fig. 1 (Note that the components identical to those in the switching station 11 in Fig. 1 are not shown in this drawing except for the switching section 117).

[0054] The modulating sections 211_1 to 211_n modulate each base band digital data to be transmitted to the radio base stations 20_1 to 20_n in a code-division multiplex system. The downlink frequency converting sections 212_1 to 212_n subject the downlink radio signals each having frequency of f_0 obtained after the modulation to frequency conversion so as to vary each frequency thereof to be f_1 to f_n . The multiplexing section 213 multiplexes the downlink radio signals. The driving section 214 applies a bias to an electrical signal. The downlink electrical-optical converting section 215 outputs an optical signal whose intensity is modulated by the electrical signal. The branching section 215 branches the optical signal into n signals. The downlink optical-electrical conversion 201 converts the optical signal into an electrical signal. The respective downlink band pass filter sections 202 extract downlink uplink signals having frequency of f_1 to f_n from the electrical signal. The downlink frequency re-converting section 203

subjects the downlink radio signals having frequency of f_1 to f_n so as to convert each frequency thereof back to the original value of f_0 .

[0055] In the system shown in Fig. 2, an uplink radio signal received by the antenna 101 of the respective radio base stations 20_1 to 20_n is inputted to an uplink system via the circulator 204. Specifically, the uplink radio signal is sent to a component corresponding to the uplink frequency converting section 102 in Fig. 1 so as to be optically transmitted to the switching station 21 in a multi-point fashion. As the way how the uplink radio signal is transmitted in the system is the same as in the above first embodiment, further description thereof is thus omitted below. The operation how downlink radio signals are optically transmitted from the switching station 21 to the radio base stations 20_1 to 20_n in a multi-point fashion is described next below.

[0056] The respective base band digital data outputted from the switching section 117 to be transmitted to the radio base stations 20_1 to 20_n is modulated in the modulating sections 211_1 to 211_n in a code-division multiplex system. The respective downlink radio signals obtained by the modulation are equal in frequency (f_0) and are subjected to frequency conversion in the downlink frequency converting sections 212_1 to 212_n so that each frequency thereof is varied from f_1 to f_n .

[0057] It should be noted that the downlink radio signals outputted from the modulating sections 212_1 to 212_n are not necessarily equal in frequency. Herein, however, a description is made of a case where downlink radio signals are equal in frequency (herein, f_0) as is common for communication in a code-division multiplex system.

[0058] The downlink radio signals obtained by the frequency conversion are multiplexed in the multiplexing section 213, biased in the driving section 214, and then sent to the downlink electrical-optical converting section 215. In response thereto, the downlink electrical-optical converting section 215 outputs an optical signal whose intensity is modulated by the electrical signal.

[0059] The outputted optical signal is branched into n signals in the optical branching section 216, and the signals are then transmitted to the radio base stations 20_1 to 20_n via the optical fiber 13. The transmitted optical signals are converted into electrical signals in each downlink optical-electrical converting section 201. As each band pass filter section 202 has a characteristic of selectively passing signals having frequency of f_1 to f_n , downlink radio signals each having frequency of f_1 to f_n are extracted from each electrical signal by each filter.

[0060] The extracted downlink radio signals each are subjected to frequency re-conversion so that each frequency thereof is converted back to the original value of f_0 . Thereafter, the signals are sent to the antenna 101 through the optical circulator 204 so as to be transmitted to a plurality of terminals (not shown) in each cell 12.

[0061] As will be known from the above, in the sys-

tem in Fig. 2, the switching station 21 subjects the downlink radio signals each having the predetermined frequency of f_0 to frequency conversion so as to vary each frequency thereof from f_1 to f_n , multiplexes the signals, and converts the electrical signal obtained after conversion into an optical signal before transmitting the same to the radio base stations 20_1 to 20_n .

[0062] On the other hand, each radio base station 20_1 to 20_n subjects the optical signal outputted from the switching station 21 to electrical-optical conversion, and extracts its own downlink radio signal having frequency of f_1 to f_n from the electrical signal obtained by the conversion. Thereafter, each radio base station 20_1 to 20_n subjects the extracted downlink radio signal to frequency re-conversion so as to convert the frequency thereof back to the original value of f_0 before transmitting the radio signal to each terminal located in the same cell 12.

[0063] As will be known from the above, the system in Fig. 2 as well as the system in Fig. 1 can perform multi-point optical transmission with only a single uplink optical-electrical converting section 112 provided in the switching station 21 on a plurality of signals outputted from the radio base stations 20_1 to 20_n to the switching station 21 without causing a drop in each C/N ratio thereof. Further, the system can optically transmit a plurality of downlink radio signals outputted from the switching station 21 to the radio base stations 20_1 to 20_n in a multi-point manner without causing a drop in each C/N ratio thereof.

[0064] Note that the antenna for transmitting/receiving signals 101 and the circulator 204 provided in the radio base stations 20_1 to 20_n in the system in Fig. 2 can be substituted with two antennas for transmitting and receiving signals, respectively. In that case, however, the size of the radio base stations 20_1 to 20_n will be larger.

(Third Embodiment)

[0065] Fig. 3 is a block diagram showing the configuration of a multi-point optical transmission system according to a third embodiment of the present invention.

[0066] The system in Fig. 3 includes radio base stations 30_1 to 30_n (where n is an arbitrary integer of 2 or more; radio base stations 30_1 to 30_n are not shown in the drawing) and a switching station 31, and each of the radio base stations 30_1 to 30_n is connected to the switching station 31 via an optical fiber 13.

[0067] Each of the radio base stations 30_1 to 30_n includes an antenna 101, an uplink frequency converting section 102, a driving section 103, an uplink electrical-optical converting section 104, a downlink optical-electrical converting section 201, a downlink band pass filter section 202, a downlink frequency re-converting section 203, a circulator 204, and an uplink pilot signal multiplexing section 301.

[0068] The switching station 31 includes an optical multiplexing section 111, an uplink optical-electrical converting section 112, a branching section 113, uplink band pass filter sections 114_1 to 114_n , uplink frequency re-converting sections 115_1 to 115_n , demodulating sections 116_1 to 116_n , a switching section 117, modulating sections 211_1 to 211_n , downlink frequency converting sections 212_1 to 212_n , a multiplexing section 213, a driving section 214, a downlink frequency converting sections 215, an optical branching section 216, and a downlink pilot signal multiplexing section 311.

[0069] Specifically, in the system in Fig. 3, the respective radio base stations 20_1 to 20_n further include the uplink pilot signal multiplexing section 301, and the switching station 21 further includes with the downlink pilot signal multiplexing section 311 compared to the system in Fig. 2 (Note that uplink components are not shown in Fig. 2).

[0070] The uplink pilot multiplexing section 301 multiplexes an uplink pilot signal into an uplink radio signal. The uplink pilot signals to be multiplexed are varied in frequency according to the radio base stations 30_1 to 30_n . The reason for the uplink radio signal having each different frequency is to help the switching station 31 identify which uplink pilot signal is outputted from which radio base station 30_1 to 30_n .

[0071] Unlike the branching section 113 in Fig. 2, the branching section 113 in Fig. 3 branches an electrical signal into $n+1$ signals. The downlink pilot signal multiplexing section 311 multiplexes a downlink pilot signal into a downlink radio signal. When multiplexing, the downlink pilot signal multiplexing section 311 examines one of the electrical signals obtained after branching by the branching section 113 so as to measure power of each uplink pilot signal outputted from the radio base stations 30_1 to 30_n , and then compares the measured value and a predetermined reference value so as to provide the difference thereof as a modulation component to the respective downlink pilot signals to be multiplexed.

[0072] The downlink band pass filter section 202 further extracts a downlink pilot signal from the electrical signal in addition to the tasks performed in the downlink band pass filter section 202 in Fig. 2 (refer to a second embodiment). The driving section 103, in addition to the tasks performed in the driving section 103 in Fig. 2, further adjusts power of a bias to be applied in accordance with the information provided to the downlink pilot signal extracted by the downlink band pass filter section 202 so that each power of the uplink pilot signals at the time of reaching the switching station 31 coincides with the reference value.

[0073] Hereinafter, the operation whereby the system in Fig. 3 performs multi-point optical transmission on a plurality of uplink radio signals outputted from the radio base stations 30_1 to 30_n to the switching station 31, and at the same time performs multi-point optical transmission on a plurality of downlink radio signals out-

putted from the switching station 31 to the radio base stations 30_1 to 30_n . Note that the basic manners for multi-point optical transmission on a plurality of uplink radio signals from the base radio stations 30_1 to 30_n to the switching station 31, and on a plurality of downlink radio signals outputted from the switching station 31 to the radio base stations 30_1 to 30_n are similar to the respective manners in the system in Fig. 2. Therefore, further description of those manners is omitted but any difference between the two systems will be described in detail.

[0074] The system in Fig. 3 is differed from the one in Fig. 2 in the following two points.

[0075] The first difference is that, in the system in Fig. 3, the uplink pilot signal multiplexing section 301 multiplexes an uplink pilot signal on an uplink radio signal, and the downlink pilot signal multiplexing section 311 multiplexes a downlink pilot signal on a downlink radio signal.

[0076] In this manner, an amount of noise and distortion occurs in an optical transmission system is reduced. This is because a spectrum of the radio signal will be enlarged by multiplexing the pilot signal on the radio signal. Note if a light source which is capable of outputting an optical signal having a wider-band spectrum substitutes as the uplink electrical-optical converting section 104 and the downlink electrical-optical converting section 215, the pilot signal is not necessarily multiplexed on the radio signal.

[0077] The second difference is that power of each pilot signal outputted from the radio base stations 30_1 to 30_n is monitored in the switching station 31, and the monitored value is fed back to the radio base stations 30_1 to 30_n with the downlink pilot signal. The radio base stations 30_1 to 30_n adjust power of a bias to be applied to an uplink radio signal in accordance with the fed-back monitored value so that the power of the uplink pilot signal at the time of reaching the switching station 31 coincides with the predetermined reference value.

[0078] In this manner, the uplink radio signals will be equal in power to be sent to the demodulating sections 116_1 to 116_n . As a result, noise and distortion will be prevented from occurring only to an uplink radio signal outputted from a particular radio base station, and transmission characteristics in the system is accordingly improved.

[0079] Specifically, the system in Fig. 3 not only reduces an amount of noise and distortion occurred in an optical transmission system by multiplexing a pilot signal on a radio signal but prevents noise and distortion from occurring only to an uplink signal outputted from a particular radio base station by performing feed-back control with the pilot signal so as to equalize power of the uplink radio signals to be sent to the demodulating sections 116_1 to 116_n .

[0080] Furthermore, in connection with the aforementioned second difference, each driving section 103 in this embodiment adjusts power of a bias to be applied

to an uplink radio signal so as to coincide power of each uplink pilot signal at the time of reaching the switching station 31 with the reference value. However, the uplink electrical-optical converting section 104 may adjust an optical modulation level of the optical signal in place of the respective driving sections 103.

[0081] In that case, however, if each optical modulation level of the optical signals obtained by the conversion subjected by the uplink electrical-optical converting sections 104 is different from one another after the adjustment, each intensity of the optical signals to be transmitted to the uplink optical-electrical converting section 112 may also be different from one another. Therefore, a noise-to-noise (power thereof) variation may be expected after the electrical-optical conversion, which is occurred due to a noise with a relative intensity contained in the optical signals respectively outputted from the electrical-optical converting sections 104. Whereas, if the optical signals to be transmitted to the uplink optical-electrical converting section 112 are equal in intensity, the amount of the noise will be minimum. Accordingly, if the optical modulation level of the optical signals is adjusted in the above manner, the transmission characteristic of the system will be degraded compared to best condition.

[0082] As will be known from the above, the transmission characteristic will be preferably improved if, when the optical signals outputted from the respective uplink electrical-optical converting sections 104 are received by the uplink optical-electrical converting section 112, the respective driving sections 10 adjust power of a bias to be applied to the uplink radio signal so as to equalize the power of the optical signals before the respective uplink electrical-optical converting sections 104 adjust the optical modulation levels of the optical signals to be transmitted to equalize with one another.

[0083] While the invention has been described in detail, the foregoing description is in all aspects illustrative and not restrictive. It is understood that numerous other modifications and variations can be devised without departing from the scope of the invention.

Claims

1. A multi-point optical transmission system for optically transmitting code-division multiplex signals from a plurality of slave stations (10_1 to 10_n , 20_1 to 20_n , 30_1 to 30_n) to a master station (11, 21, 31),

said slave stations (10_1 to 10_n , 20_1 to 20_n , 30_1 to 30_n) having each varied carrier frequency assigned, each of said slave stations (10_1 to 10_n , 20_1 to 20_n , 30_1 to 30_n) comprising: frequency conversion means (102) for subjecting each code-division multiplex signal having a predetermined frequency to be transmitted to said master station (11, 21, 31) to frequency conversion to equalize the predetermined fre-

- quency thereof with the carrier frequency assigned to one own station;
 drive means (103) for applying a bias to a signal obtained after the conversion by said frequency conversion means (102); and
 electrical-optical conversion means (104) for converting an electrical signal obtained through the bias applied by said drive means (103) into an optical signal whose intensity is modulated by the electrical signal, and
 said master station (11, 21, 31) comprising:
 optical multiplex means (111) for multiplexing optical signals obtained after conversion by said electrical-optical conversion means (104);
 optical-electrical conversion means (112) for converting an optical signal obtained after multiplexing by said optical multiplex means (111) into an electrical signal;
 band pass filter means (114₁ to 114_n) for extracting a signal equal in frequency to the carrier frequency assigned to each of said slave stations (10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n) from the electrical signal obtained after conversion by said optical-electrical conversion means (112); and
 frequency re-conversion means (115₁ to 115_n) for subjecting each signal extracted by said band pass filter means (114₁ to 114_n) to frequency re-conversion to equalize each frequency thereof with said predetermined frequency.
2. The multi-point optical transmission system according to Claim 1, wherein each of said slave stations (10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n) has varied downlink carrier frequency further assigned,
- said master station (11, 21, 31) further comprises:
 downlink frequency conversion means (212₁ to 212_n) for subjecting each downlink signal having another predetermined frequency to be transmitted to said slave stations (10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n) to frequency conversion to equalize the other predetermined frequency thereof with the downlink carrier frequency assigned to each of the slave station (10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n);
 multiplex means (213) for multiplexing downlink signals obtained after the conversion by said downlink frequency conversion means (212₁ to 212_n);
 downlink drive means (214) for applying a bias to a signal obtained after multiplexing by said multiplex means (213);
 downlink electrical-optical conversion means (215) for converting an electrical signal obtained through the bias applied by said

downlink drive means (214) into an optical signal whose intensity is modulated by the signal; and

optical branch means (216) for branching the optical signal obtained after conversion by said downlink electrical-optical conversion means (215), and

each of said slave stations (10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n) further comprises:

downlink optical-electrical conversion means (201) for converting one of a plurality of optical signals obtained after branching by said optical branch means (216) into an electrical signal;

downlink band pass filter means (202) for extracting a signal equal in frequency to a downlink carrier frequency assigned to the own station from the electrical signal obtained after conversion by said downlink optical-electrical conversion means (201); and

downlink frequency re-conversion means (203) for subjecting the downlink signal extracted by said downlink band pass filter means (202) to frequency re-conversion to equalize a frequency thereof with said other predetermined frequency.

3. The multi-point optical transmission system according to Claim 2, wherein each of said slave stations (10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n) has varied pilot signal frequency further assigned, and

further comprises pilot signal multiplex means for multiplexing a pilot signal having a pilot signal frequency assigned to the own station on a code-division multiplex signal to be transmitted to said master station (11, 21, 31),

said master station (11, 21, 31) further comprises downlink pilot signal multiplex means (311) for multiplexing a downlink pilot signal on each of downlink signals to be transmitted to said slave stations (10₁ to 10_n, 20₁ to 20_n, 30₁ to 30_n),

said downlink pilot signal multiplex means (311) examines the electrical signal obtained after conversion by said optical-electrical conversion means (112) to measure power of said pilot signal, and then generates control information indicating a difference between a measured value and a predetermined threshold to apply the same as a modulation component to said downlink pilot signal to be multiplexed, said downlink band pass filter means (202) further extracts the downlink pilot signal from the electrical signal obtained after the conversion by said downlink optical-electrical conversion means (201), and

in accordance with said control information supplied to the downlink pilot signal extracted

by said downlink band pass filter means (202), said drive means (103) adjusts power of a bias to be applied so that power of said code-division multiplex signal at time of reaching said master station (11, 21, 31) are equalized.

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4. The multi-point optical transmission system according to Claim 3, wherein when converting the electrical signal into the optical signal, said electrical-optical conversion means (104) adjusts each optical modulation level of the optical signal to equalize the same.

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5. The multi-point optical transmission system according to Claim 3, wherein each of said code-division multiplex signals is a signal into which a plurality of radio signals transmitted from a mobile station in each cell (12) of said slave stations (10_1 to 10_n , 20_1 to 20_n , 30_1 to 30_n) are code-division-multiplexed,

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each of said downlink signals is a signal into which a plurality of radio signals to be transmitted to the mobile station in said cell (12) are multiplexed, and

each of said slave stations (10_1 to 10_n , 20_1 to 20_n , 30_1 to 30_n) further comprises:

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an antenna (101) for transmitting and receiving the radio signals to and from the mobile station located in one own cell (12); and

a circulator (204) for supplying an output from said antenna (101) to said frequency conversion means (102) and an output from said downlink frequency re-conversion means (203) to said antenna (101).

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FIG. 1

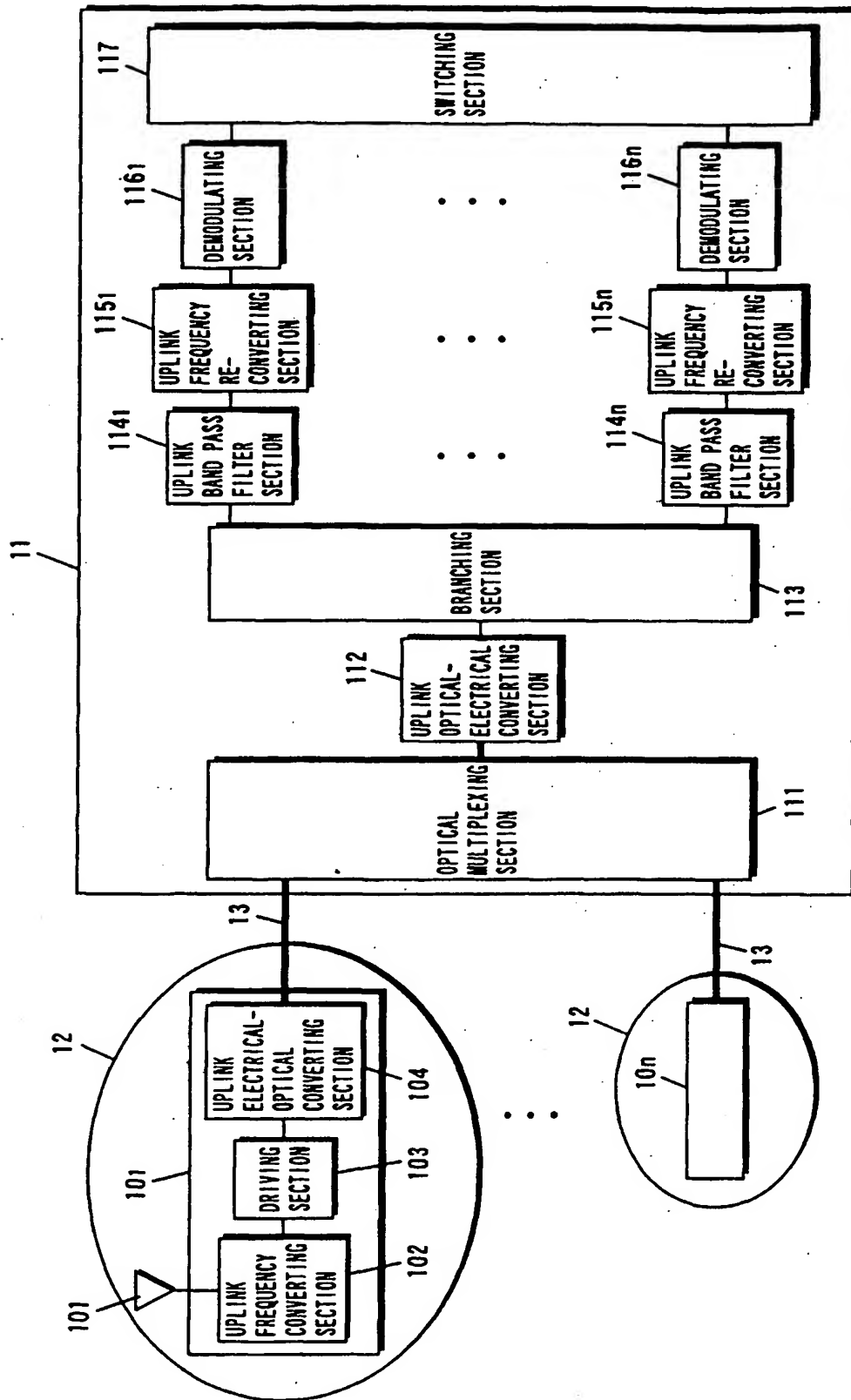


FIG. 2

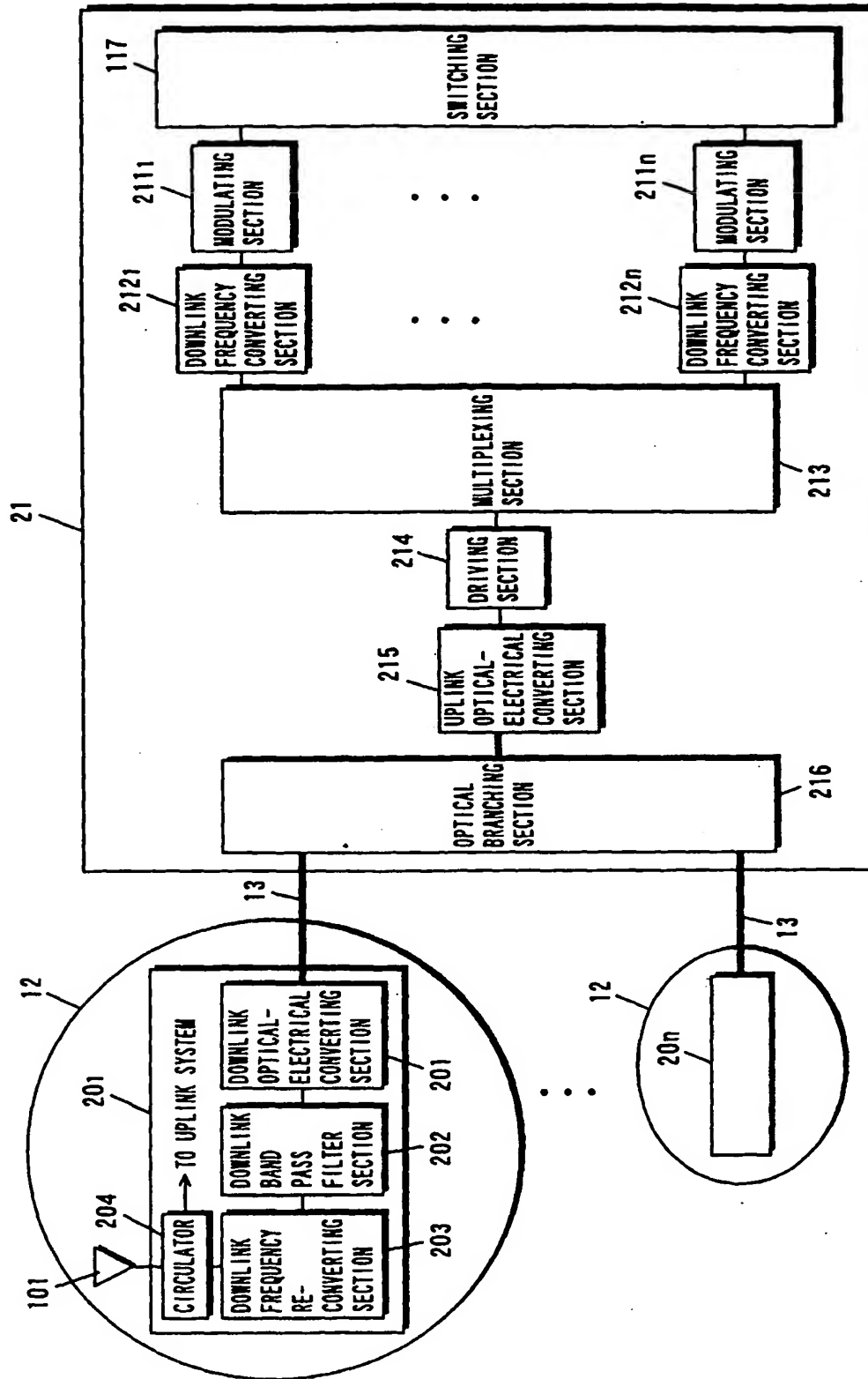


FIG. 3

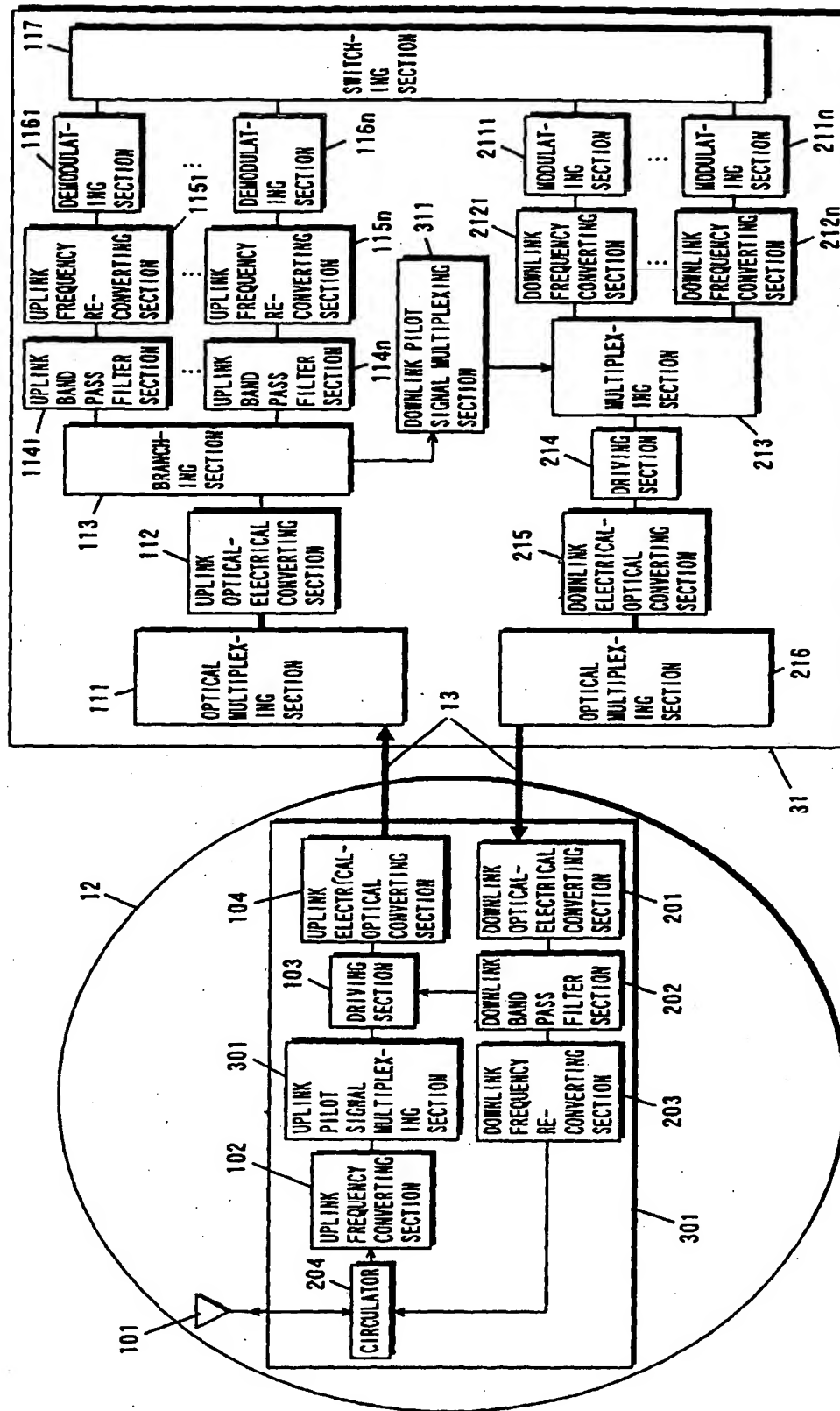


FIG. 4

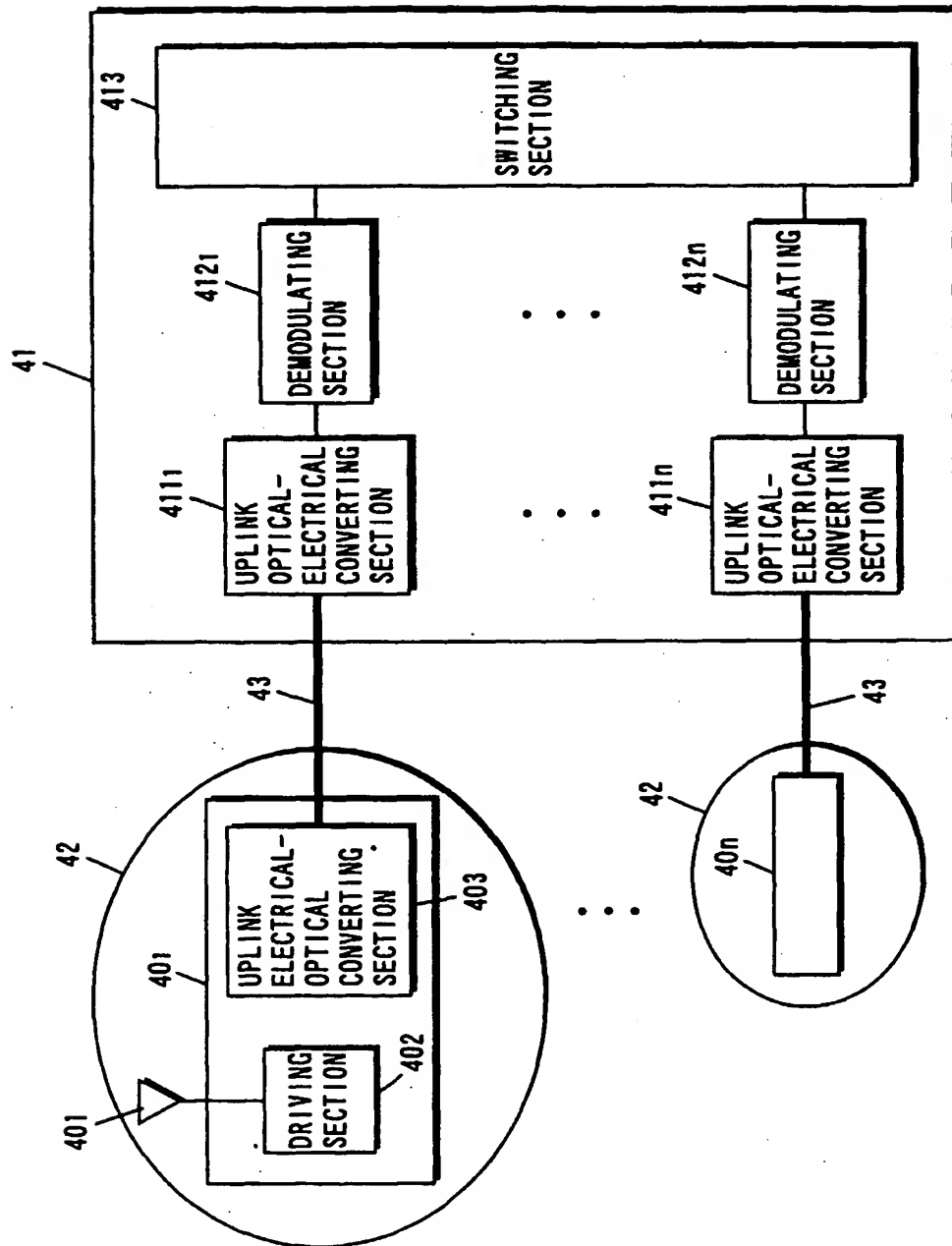


FIG. 5

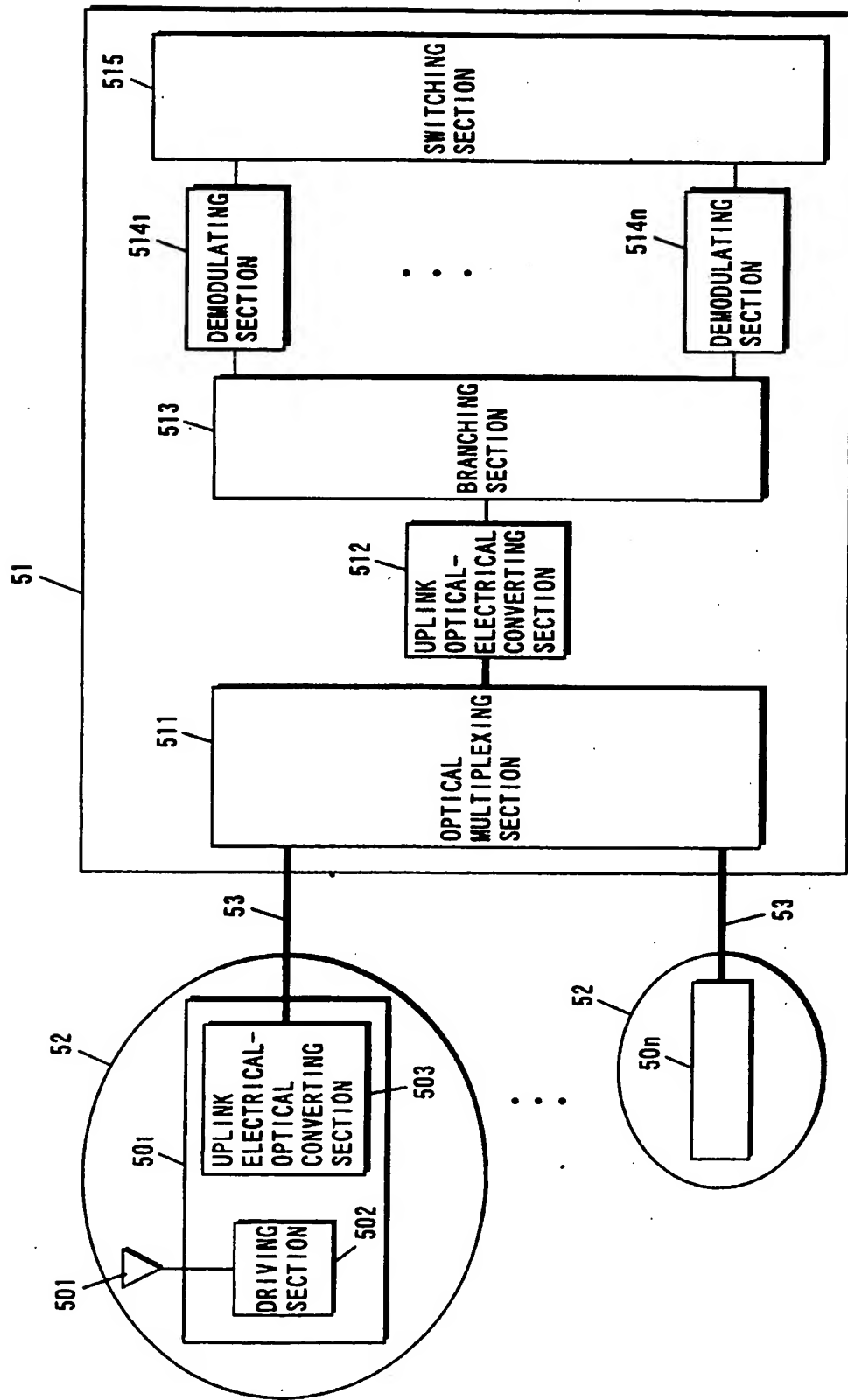
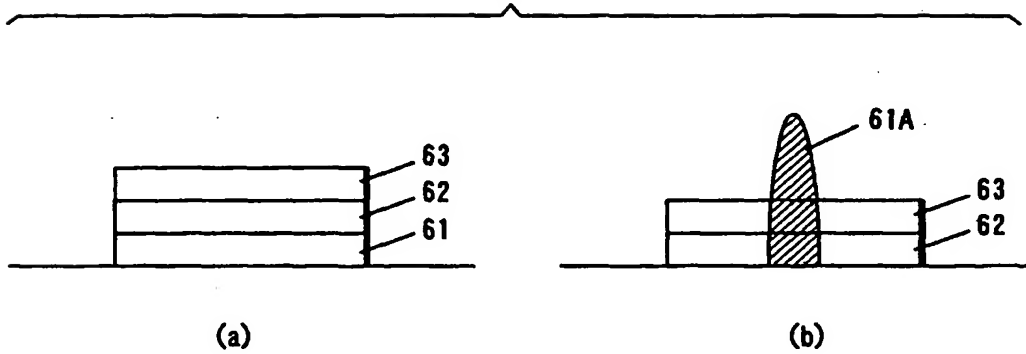


FIG. 6





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 10 9293

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			H04B H04J
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	27 October 1999	Cochet, B	
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